

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 are pending in the application.

Claims 8, 9, 22, 23, 37, and 38 have been canceled.

Claims 55-62 have been added.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 19, 20, 29, 30, 34, 35, 44, 48, and 49 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification.

This paper and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE) are being submitted in response to the Final Office Action and subsequent Advisory Action, wherein all previous claims stand rejected in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,802 issued to Oliva *et al.* (“Oliva”) either under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or in combination with another reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, 15, 16, 18-21, 25, 29-31, 33-36, 40, 44, 45, 47-49 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in light of Oliva. Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 15, 29, 30 and 44 to (a) clarify that the claimed end-to-end services are “virtual path end-to-end services,” and (b) to include a route processor. Such amendments are submitted to progress prosecution and are not intended to prejudice any future argument that Oliva is not prior art to any invention herein presented. Applicant respectfully submits that Oliva provides no disclosure of either virtual path end-to-end services nor a route processor that performs the claimed processing. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 15, 29, 30, and 44, and all claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance and request Examiner’s indication of same.

With regard to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons described above, the cited combinations of references do not disclose each limitation of the rejected claims. The Office Action presents no argument that the references combined with Oliva provide the missing claim limitations discussed above with regard to 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant further calls the Examiner’s attention to the

cancellation of claims 8, 9, 22, 23, 37, and 38, thereby rendering the standing rejections to those claims moot.

Claims 55-62 have been added in this Preliminary Amendment to provide further clarification of the distinction between the present invention and those references previously cited. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by these claims and that these claims find full support within the content of the specification.

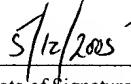
For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests indication of same.

CONCLUSION

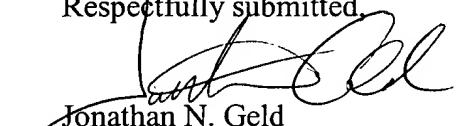
The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 12, 2005.


Attorney for Applicant(s)


Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan N. Geld
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,702
(512) 439-5090 [Phone]
(512) 439-5099 [Fax]